

HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

**of the Medical Officer of Health
and Chief Sanitary Inspector**

for the year ended

31st December, 1948

**W. D. Cruickshank, M.B., Ch.B.
and E. Melson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.**



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
of the
HINCKLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:

W. D. CRUICKSHANK, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

E. MELSON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. DEAMER, M.S.I.A.

L. F. WHITMORE, M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

R. C. LIGGINS

Clerk:

MRS. A. W. TAMS

Rodent Operator:

T. FITZPATRICK

Health and Sanitary Committee

(as composed 31st December, 1948)

Councillor F. HALL, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)

- „ W. K. WILEMAN (Chairman of the Committee
until his resignation in Aug.,
1948)
- „ J. JACQUES (Chairman of Committee from Sept.,
1948)
- „ G. E. BOAST
- „ H. CRAMP
- „ Dr. M. O. CRUICKSHANK
- „ T. O. McGRAH
- „ E. W. MOORE
- „ F. RALPH
- „ K. E. M. SKINNER
- „ C. Warburton
- „ T. C. WORMLEIGHTON
- „ Mrs. D. ATKINS

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1948

Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Hinckley Urban District Council
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1948 is remarkable as being that in which, on July 5, the National Health Service came into action. Every member of the community, individually, and every community collectively is affected by it. At the close of the year it is too early to comment except on one small point—namely, the elimination of the Relieving Officer, whose absence is already felt by both the aged and infirm and by the doctors. The former knew him as a friend, the latter as a helper, and as one who was well acquainted with the home circumstances. I would also comment on the fact that since July 5 your Council is no longer responsible for the organisation of Diphtheria Immunisation in the District. It remains to be seen what effect this will have on the proportion of children immunised in the future.

General Health of the Community

Satisfactory.

Nutrition

Again there is no evidence of any general nutritional deficiency.

Infectious and Contagious Disease

There was a sharp outbreak of measles in the first half of the year—a total of 741 cases occurring.

The Scabies Centre is mainly used for the occasional cleansing of verminous persons, and is otherwise on a care and maintenance basis.

STATISTICS

In compiling the usual statistics, last year's figures have been inserted in brackets for comparison in many instances.

Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	24.2	(46.8)
General Death Rate	...	...	...	...	9.4	(10.6)

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	11,882	
Registrar General's estimate of resident population					38,580	(37,650)
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books at 31 - 12 - 48	...	...			11,033	(10,903)
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£190,799	(£195,786)
Sum representing a penny rate	...	...	...		£798 12 1	(£799)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births	...	...	412 (446)	373 (412)	785 (858)
Legitimate	...	...	394 (420)	355 (402)	749 (822)
Illegitimate	...	...	18 (26)	18 (10)	36 (36)

This represents a live birth rate of 20.39 (22.79) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

			Male	Female	Total
Still Births	...	...	7 (6)	10 (7)	17 (13)
Legitimate	...	...	5 (6)	9 (6)	14 (12)
Illegitimate	...	...	2 (0)	1 (1)	3 (1)

Rate (still births) per 1,000 total (live and still births) 19.41 (14.9).

Deaths

General

Male	Female	Total
177 (207)	187 (190)	364 (397)

This represents a death rate of 9.4 (10.5) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

From Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list)

No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil (Nil)
No. 30	Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	2 (1)

Rate per 1,000 total live births 2.5 (1.2).

Infants under one year

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	24.2 (46.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	25.3 (46.2)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0. (55.6)

(no illegitimate infants died)

Other Mortality Statistics

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	66 (51)
„ „ Measles ( „ „ )	...	...	...	...	0 (2)
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3 (4)
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	3 (3)

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(See beginning of Report).

2. Laboratory Facilities.

The following examinations from the area were carried out either at the County Laboratory, Leicester, or the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road.

County Health Laboratory

Milk examinations (bacteriological)	226
Water	35
	<hr/>
	261
	<hr/>

Public Health Laboratory

Throat and Nose Swabs	16
Sputum	19
Blood (for Widal)	4
Faeces and Urine	214
Milk	4
Ice-cream	55
Water	17
Miscellaneous	6
	<hr/>
	335

3. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.**Diphtheria Immunisation**

The number of children immunised during 1948 was 530 (476).

The position at December 31 (based on the Registrar General's figures of the child population for mid-1948) was as follows:

	Children	
	Under 5	Over 5 and under 13
Total number immunised during year	521 (392)	69 (84)
Total number immunised since beginning of scheme	3281 (2760)	4903 (4834)
Percentage immunised of total child population ..	89.18 (76.45)	91.01 (87.73)

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

The following diseases occurred during 1948:

Disease	Total Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	72 (47)	0 (0)
Diphtheria	1 (1)	0 (0)
Whooping Cough	56 (66)	3 (4)
Measles	741 (280)	0 (2)
Acute Poliomyelitis	1 (2)	0 (0)
Pneumonia	38 (42)	9 (10)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2 (3)	0 (1)
Dysentery	3 (0)	0 (0)
Erysipelas	7 (10)	0 (0)
Puerperal Pyrexia	0 (1)	0 (0)

AGE GROUPS AND SEX

Age	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	3 (10)	2 (4)
.. 3	2 (8)	2 (2)	— (—)	1 (—)	7 (11)	10 (12)
.. 5	7 (10)	4 (3)	— (1)	— (—)	9 (9)	9 (10)
.. 10	17 (7)	10 (5)	1 (—)	— (—)	10 (5)	5 (4)
.. 15	3 (2)	14 (4)	—	—	1 (1)	— (—)
.. 25	3 (1)	6 (2)	—	—	—	—
Over 25	1 (2)	2 (1)	—	—	—	—
Unknown	1 (—)	— (—)	—	—	—	—
Totals	34 (30)	38 (17)	1 (1)	1 (—)	30 (36)	26 (30)

Age	Measles		Poliomyelitis		Dysentery	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	9 (10)	19 (12)	—	—	—	—
.. 3	80 (46)	69 (39)	—	—	—	—
.. 5	130 (50)	110 (42)	—	—	—	—
.. 10	152 (28)	153 (36)	—	1 (—)	—	3 (—)
.. 15	2 (3)	5 (5)	—	—	—	—
.. 25	1 (1)	2 (6)	— (1)	—	—	—
Over 25	2 (—)	1 (2)	— (1)	—	—	—
Unknown	4 (—)	2 (—)	—	—	—	—
Totals	380 (138)	361 (142)	— (2)	1 (—)	— (—)	3 (—)

	Pneumonia		Cerebro-Spinal Fever		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 5	2 (3)	2 (4)	1 (—)	— (1)	—	—	—
.. 15	6 (5)	5 (3)	1 (—)	— (1)	—	—	—
.. 45	3 (4)	1 (5)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (1)	2 (3)	— (1)
.. 65	11 (4)	4 (7)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (2)	1 (4)	—
Over 65	3 (6)	1 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	—
Totals	25 (22)	13 (20)	2 (1)	— (2)	3 (3)	4 (7)	— (1)

The distribution of these diseases in the area were as follows:

	Hinckley	Barwell	Earl Shilton	Burbage	Stoke Golding
Scarlet Fever	28 (20)	8 (8)	22 (11)	11 (8)	3 (—)
Diphtheria	1 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	31 (33)	14 (18)	— (9)	11 (5)	— (1)
Measles	264 (255)	139 (13)	186 (3)	149 (9)	3 (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (2)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Pneumonia	20 (24)	3 (2)	6 (11)	8 (5)	1 (—)
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1 (1)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (1)
Dysentery	2 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Erysipelas	2 (7)	2 (—)	3 (3)	— (—)	— (—)
Paratyphoid Fever	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

New Cases and Mortality, 1948

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. 5	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
.. 15	2	—	2	2	—	—	1	—
.. 25	6	1	2	—	—	4	—	—
.. 35	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
.. 45	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
.. 55	3	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Over 55	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
Totals	17 (17)	4 (23)	4 (4)	5 (10)	11 (13)	8 (10)	1 (1)	1 (4)

21 (31) of these new cases occurred in Hinckley, 2 (5) in Barwell, 1 (9) in Earl Shilton, 6 (8) in Burbage and none (1) in Stoke Golding.

Conclusion

Appended is a table to show some statistics at approximately 10 year intervals since 1899. It will be noted that the population has increased from 11,000 to 38,000, that the general death rate has fallen from 16 per 1,000 to 9 per 1,000, and most important of all that the infantile mortality rate has dropped from 160 to 24 per 1,000 live births.

The above gives some evidence of the value of preventive medicine and public health work in general.

Once again I have to acknowledge gratefully the kindly co-operation and support of the members of the Health Committee, and to express my thanks to Mr. Melson and the other members of the staff of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. CRUICKSHANK,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hinckley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-first Annual Report upon the administration of your Sanitary Inspector's Department.

The position regarding the repair of houses is still unsatisfactory. Further complications have now been introduced by the varying legal decisions which have been given and it is time that the position regarding dust bins, coppers, hot water geysers or boilers, etc. was definitely clarified by legislation.

Food hygiene has received considerable attention during the year, and I hope that both the traders and their customers will become conscious of the great protection against ill health which can be gained by maintaining the highest possible standard of hygiene in all forms of food handling.

I wish to express my thanks to Doctor W. D. Cruickshank and the members and officers of the Council for their support and co-operation and especially to my staff for the willing and thorough manner in which they have met the many and varied calls upon them.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. MELSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

1. The quality of the water supply throughout the year has been satisfactory, but the quantity available cannot be so regarded. The rainfall during the year was much above the average and this factor was of prime importance in the maintenance of a constant supply. Owing to the hardness of the town water almost every house has a storage well or tank in which the roof water is collected for laundry and other cleansing purposes. This secondary supply is very helpful, especially during such a year as 1948.

2. To overcome this shortage, negotiations had been taking place with the Leicester Corporation, and in my last year's report I mentioned that a draft agreement had been prepared between them, the Blaby R.D.C. and this Urban District Council. The Pollock Report was then issued by the Ministry of Health. This stated our tentative agreement with the Leicester Corporation for a bulk supply was to be cancelled and we were to obtain our water supply from a Birmingham source. Upon application being made in this direction, we were informed there was no water available and we are still uncertain where our supply, which is required immediately, is to come from, although it is understood that we must now continue negotiations with the Leicester Corporation.

3. No samples of raw water from any public supply were taken. Four bacteriological and five chemical samples of treated town water were taken, all of which were satisfactory. Twenty-six samples of well or spring water were submitted to chemical and bacteriological analysis, seven chemical and twelve bacteriological samples being declared satisfactory, and six chemical and two bacteriological samples being unsatisfactory.

4. The town water has a permanent hardness content around 10 part per 100,000, so there is no likelihood of Plumbo-solvent action being set up.

5. Four polluted wells were emptied and cleansed and in one case the farm buildings were redrained to discharge into a septic tank and filter to remove a main source of pollution.

6. A supply scheme for the hamlet of Wykin and part of Stoke Golding was approved by the Council, but it has not yet been commenced.

7. Almost the whole of the people use the public water supply. 10,824 houses and 37,243 people have a direct supply inside the house, 273 houses and 1,092 people have a supply from external standposts and 108 houses and 470 people obtain their water supply from wells or springs.

8. In general, the houses which do not have a direct internal supply are either those out of reach of the mains or houses of a low standard which will ultimately be demolished under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936.

9. Report of analysis of a sample of town water collected on 19 April, 1948 being a mixture of well water from Snarestone and from the Thornton reservoir.

Chemical						Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0112
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	2.2
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	0.11
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80° Fah. in 4 hours						0.109
Total solids dried at 100° Cent.	...	...	...	...	...	24.0
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	"
Appearance—Bright, few small particles.						
Hardness—						
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	2.8
Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	10.0
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12.8

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in 2 days at 37° Cent. per c.c.—8.

Number of colonies capable of growth on Repibel Agar in 2 days at 37° Cent. per c.c.—4.

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in 4 days at 20° Cent. per c.c.—16.

Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.s—2 columns present in 50 c.c.s.

Remarks

These results show that in its present condition this water may be considered a safe one for use as a public supply.

BOSTOCK, HILL & RIGBY, Public Analysts.

I am indebted to the Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the contents of paragraph 2 relating to the Pollock report.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE

10. Extensions to the sewers were made for new housing development in Burbage and the Langdale Road district of Hinckley. No other new works were put in hand.

Several complaints were received during the year of the nuisance which was caused by the backing up of sewage from overcharged sewers during times of heavy rainfall. These conditions were considered by the Works Committee and instructions have been given for a scheme to be prepared to abate them.

11. No progress was made with the resewering of Stoke Golding or the replacement of the inadequate pumping plant on the south western side of the canal in Coventry Road, Hinckley.

12. One cesspool was constructed during the year. A survey of the cesspools in the Urban District revealed there were 123, 28 less than at the end of 1947.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

13. In general the whole of the sanitary accommodation is on the water carriage system, there being 4 privies, 228 pail closets and 10,148 water closets. One pail closet was converted to the water carriage system during the year.

Attempts were made to persuade the owners of property having pail closets to convert them to water closets where a sufficient sewer and water supply is available. No success was achieved by the end of the year, mainly because the houses are of a very low standard and of the type which will be cleared under Part III of the Housing Act.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

14. House refuse is collected by four Karrier Bantam and four horse-drawn covered vehicles and disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, one at Hinckley and one at Barwell. Refuse is collected approximately every nine days.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

15. The number of recorded complaints was 360, 70 less than 1947, although the total number of defects or nuisances discovered was 1,271 compared with 1,089 in 1947.

16. Number of Inspections

						Inspections.	Revisits
Animal Keeping	...	...	...	...	...	126	38
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	29	47
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	156	232
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	...	112	79
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	...	...	...	...	...	884	1,036
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	395	295
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	1,662	2,830
Refuse Collection, Accumulations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	267	354
Rent Acts, Queries or Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	46	—
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	21	20
Slaughterhouses and Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	569	71
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	30	100
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
Verminous Premises and Persons	...	...	...	...	...	39	2
Water Supply and Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	145	20
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	34	46
Other Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	236	211
Totals					...	4,764	5,390
Grand Total					...	10,154	

17. **Notices**

				Preliminary	
				Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on 1 January	...	...	...	29	17
Issued during year	...	...	...	134	157
Complied with during year	...	...	...	187	170
Statutory action necessary	...	...	...	23	31
Outstanding 31 December	...	...	...	29	17
				Statutory	
Outstanding on 1 January	...	...	...	15	1
Issued during year	...	...	...	23	31
Complied with during year	...	...	...	21	27
Outstanding 31 December	...	...	...	2	4

19. **Summary Action**

Action was taken against a rag man for selling toys from his cart to children under fourteen years of age. Information was laid for two contraventions on the same day and fines inflicted of £1 5s. 0d. on each summons.

Action was also taken against a dairyman for a contravention of Article 21 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations regarding a dirty milk bottle. A fine of £5 was inflicted, this being a second offence.

20. **SHOPS ACT**

Forty-one inspections were made at 18 premises. 16 contraventions were found, 10 being abated at the end of the year.

21. **Action taken under s. 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.**

				Outstanding from previous year	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Outstanding 31 Dec.
Sanitary conveniences	..	..	—	—	4	3	1
Temperature	..	..	1	1	2	3	—
Ventilation	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Washing facilities	..	..	1	1	3	3	1
Total	..	..	..	2	9	9	2

22. **TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS**

Twenty-two inspections were made relating to 12 vans or sheds.

Five new applications were applied for relating to caravans. 4 of them were from young people who wished to place modern trailer caravans on sites which they had for building permanent houses on. In these cases, the essential services were available and the applications were granted on a yearly basis.

These young people were proceeding in this way owing to their inability to get licences to build and they thought they would obtain housing accommodation promptly. All licences granted by the Council are without prejudice to the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act and the applicants are informed accordingly. In one instance we informed an applicant that he would be granted a licence in May 1948, but he has

not yet received approval to proceed from the Town Planning Authorities as I write this report in May 1949. There ought to be a provision under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 similar to that in s. 269 (para. 4) where, unless an application is adjudicated upon within one month from its receipt, it shall be deemed to have been granted unconditionally.

One van was removed from the district.

23. **REGULATED BUILDINGS**

- (a) There is no Common Lodging House in the district.
- (b) Canal Boats. None were inspected.
- (c) Offensive Trades. There are two small tripe dressers. 15 inspections were made and 6 contraventions were abated.

24. **ANIMAL KEEPING**

In view of the bye-laws relating to animal keeping having been relaxed as an emergency measure under the Defence General Regulations, the nuisance clauses of the Public Health Act are used to control piggeries.

To help people who wish to feed cottagers' pigs a temporary standard for guidance when considering the suitability of pig sties for this purpose was prepared.

25. A survey of the piggeries in the town was commenced and at the end of the year 55 piggeries had been visited and the conditions of structure, cleanliness, rat infestation, drainage and the existence or likelihood of nuisances checked.

Generally the conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory. Action was taken at 10 premises to abate nuisances from the absence of drainage or rat infestations, and in 13 cases suggestions were made for precautions to be taken to abate effluvial nuisances during warm weather.

Some of the pig keepers showed great pride in the construction, cleanliness and layout of their sties.

26. **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

Eighty-three observations were made on the chimney stacks in connection with 15 premises and 130 inspections were made. 23 nuisances occurred, 9 being abated and 14 unabated at the end of the year.

Nuisances were abated by the following action:

One new boiler house constructed complete with automatic underfeed stokers to the two boilers.

One automatic underfeed stoker fitted to an existing boiler, lessening the load on one boiler.

Burning a mixture of coke and coal and ultimately burning coke only on one boiler.

Ceasing to burn transfers (very light bits of paper) in an open fire, and Greater care in stoking in connection with four boilers.

In two cases where small vertical boilers are used and recurring smoke nuisances occur action is being taken which I hope will satisfactorily abate the nuisances. In one instance orders have been placed for a new boiler and automatic underfeed stoker, in the other the occupier has undertaken to provide a new boiler with automatic underfeed stoker in one year's time if his present stoking methods do not abate the nuisance.

27. During the early part of the year I completed a questionnaire sent out by the National Smoke Abatement Society in their National Survey of the Sources and Incidence of Atmospheric Pollution. In this, I reported that conditions were slightly worse than in 1939 due to the following reasons:

- (a) Inability to obtain the prompt repair or renewal of smoke abatement plant.
- (b) Inability to obtain "M" forms for new boilers, and
- (c) Unsatisfactory fuel.

I referred to the domestic smoke emission being considerably less than the average throughout the country largely owing to the fact that 90% of the houses cook by gas or electricity.

Atmospheric pollution in the town is gradually lessening, and I have no reason to doubt that this improvement will be maintained.

28. **ERADICATION OF VERMIN**

Thirteen houses were disinfested for various types of vermin.

29. **VERMINOUS PERSONS**

Twenty-six inspections were made, 15 relating to Scabies and 11 to other verminous conditions.

30. The Scabies Order of 1941 was repealed at the end of 1947. The authority which it gave for contacts of persons suffering from Scabies was very useful. Since the repeal and the inauguration of the National Health Scheme we have only had very few cases to deal with. It was decided to keep the Scabies Treatment Centre in operation on three half-day sessions per week.

31. **SCHOOLS**

The sanitary accommodation at one day school was inspected and found to be most unsatisfactory. This condition was taken up with the Managers and the County Director of Education. The work to abate the unsatisfactory conditions had not been completed at the end of the year.

31. **SWIMMING BATH**

Two samples of water from the bath were submitted to bacteriological examination and the following results obtained:

(1) On 7 January, 1948—

No evidence of coliform organisms in 10 c.c.'s.
Plate count sterile, and
Free chlorine—0.3 parts per million.

(2) On 6 September, 1948—

• Coliform organisms in 10 c.c.'s.
Plate count sterile, and
Free Chlorine—0.25—0.30 parts per million.

Towards the end of the year the chlorinating plant was amended to allow for the Break Point Chlorination method to be in use.

The main advantages claimed for this method are:

- (1) Sterilisation is more rapid and complete.
- (2) Oxidation of impurities takes place and the colour and appearance of the swimming bath water is notably improved, and
- (3) Free residual chlorine is without offence to bathers.

HOUSING

33. A. **New Houses**

Houses constructed and completed during the year:

Permanent type.

By local authority	81
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By private enterprise	50
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Houses in course of erection at the end of year:

By local authority	70
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By private enterprise	22
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Total number of post war houses completed by:

(a) Local authority	486
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(b) Private enterprise	182
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Council owned houses in the Urban District	2,087
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Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	1,667
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34. B. **Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	297
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	873
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(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	6
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	29
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
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(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	291
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C. **Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	296
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46 of these from action commenced in 1947.	
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D. **ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:**

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
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(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	21
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Housing Act s. 6 Bye-laws.	
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

(a) By owners	19
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
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(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 31

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 27

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

35.

Clearance Orders

17 and 19 High Street, Earl Shilton.

1 and 2 Lilleys Yard, Hinckley.

These four houses were in a very unfit condition and it was decided to deal with them under Section 25 of the Housing Act. Clearance Orders were made and objections were lodged by the owner of the Lilleys Yard houses. A Public Inquiry was held and ultimately both Orders were confirmed without modification.

36. E. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART V—OVERCROWDING

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 17

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 22

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 136

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 8

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ... 16

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 153

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

37.

Defence General Regulations 56a, 1939

Licences have been granted allowing the temporary use of four houses, two at Stoke Golding which were included in a Clearance Order and two at Burbage which were dealt with as Individual Unfit houses.

38. Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, 1939

Twenty-three complaints were received, eighteen from tenants or sub-tenants and five from owners. The majority of the complaints referred to sub-tenancies, their rent and security of tenure.

39. **Furnished Houses (Rent Control) Act, 1946**

Two cases were referred to the Clerk to the Tribunal by sub-tenants, the rent being reduced from £1 to 10/- per week in one case and from £1/2/6 to £1/1 in the other.

40. **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

(a) **Milk Supply**

Cowkeepers.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	72
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	278

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers).

Number on register	...	...	...	...	66
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	110

Total Contraventions:

	Outstanding from 1947	Found during year	Remedied during year	Outstanding 31 Dec.
Cleansing	64	93	94	63
Structural alterations	7	22	11	18
Utensils	3	21	10	14
Other	2	6	6	2
Total	76	142	121	97

(b) **Milk Samples**

Ninety-eight samples were taken and the following results obtained:

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		M.B.	B. Coli.	M.B.	B. Coli.
Tuberculin Tested	14	13	13	1	1
Pasteurised	14	14	13	—	1
Non-designated	54	44	52	10	2
Heat-treated but sold as ordinary	1	1	1	—	—
Totals	83	72	79	11	4

Miscellaneous Samples

Six samples from one farmer were taken following a complaint of "pink" milk being delivered to them by one of his customers. The sample collected from the customer was reported upon as containing blood both microscopically and chemically.

One of the farmer's cows had been injured in the udder and he reported that the Veterinary Surgeon had informed him not to use the milk from the injured quarter. The farmer complied with this for two days and then alleged he only put in milk from the three sound quarters.

The farmer was informed not to use the milk for human consumption until I informed him it was free from blood or any other foreign matter.

Two subsequent samples showed numerous red blood cells, but no evidence of real infection, and seven days after the injury the milk was declared fit to be used for human consumption.

Three samples of milk were taken for chemical examination following a complaint from a snack bar proprietor. The sample from the milk on the day of complaint had a fat content of 1.4 per cent., the three subsequent samples of the milk taken at the dairy on receipt from the wholesaler, at the point of delivery to the snack bar and from the snack bar on the same afternoon all had a fat content of 3.8 per cent.

An Accredited producer of milk developed trouble in the milk produced from his herd of 26 cows. He had received several complaints regarding its condition and he had contacted the National Milk Advisory people, who said they could do no more to trace the cause of it. The first sample I took contained a heavy mixed growth of bacteria, haemolytic streptococci predominating. Certain suggestions were made regarding the milking utensils and machine and within eight days the trouble from Ropy milk had been eradicated.

Biological Samples

Three samples were taken, two from herds in course of investigations following the occurrence of Tuberculous Adenitis. All three were declared negative.

The Health and Sanitary Committee authorised me to commence taking biological samples of milk as a routine measure, and I made arrangements with the Public Health Laboratory at Leicester to commence in January 1949.

41. Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1948

- The following licences were granted:
- One to bottle Tuberculin Tested milk.
 - Two Tuberculin Tested dealers.
 - One Tuberculin Tested supplementary.
 - One to Pasteurise milk.
 - Two Pasteurised dealers and
 - One Pasteurised supplementary.

The Tuberculin Tested bottlers' licence was granted to the dairyman who has had a dealer's licence for some years. A distinctly separate dairy from the existing dairy was provided.

42. The Pasteurising plant has maintained its efficiency, although it was necessary during the year to call attention to various omissions.

43. Ice-cream

(a) Registered Premises

(i)	For manufacture and retail	...	...	...	21
(ii)	For manufacture only	...	...	...	Nil
(iii)	For retail sale	...	...	...	12
					—
Total					33
					—

The total premises recorded last year was 57, but this year's figure of 33 is of those premises where trading in Ice-cream is actually being performed. No registrations have been cancelled, although in one instance a trader ceased to trade voluntarily because he was not prepared to make his premises comply with our standard.

One hundred and eighty-one inspections were made, 14 contraventions were found, 3 being abated at the end of the year. 8 of the unabated contraventions relate to two premises, and in one instance the trader is now selling pre-packed Ice-cream from another manufacturer and he has ceased to manufacture.

Generally the conditions of the premises and of the methods have improved, but there is still room for further improvement in certain cases.

(b) Distributing Vehicles

Thirty-eight inspections were made on 17 vehicles. Numerous unsatisfactory conditions were drawn to the notice of the owners as follows:

4 relating to cleansing.

7 „ „ the absence of proper washing facilities.

2 „ „ „ „ „ suitable protection against dust or other contamination.

7 „ „ „ „ „ hypochlorite or similar material for the utensils.

2 „ „ unsatisfactory utensils.

9 „ „ the absence of thermometers.

Of these 31 items, 5 had received attention by the end of the year.

In some of these cases the unsatisfactory conditions were mainly due to the unsuitable type of person engaged in the distribution of Ice-cream. In one or two instances the salesmen were exactly opposite to the type of person who should be engaged in this work.

(c) Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947

The following items were drawn to the attention of traders:

17—insufficient or incorrect thermometers.

15—failure to use hypochlorite for sterilisation of certain utensils.

2—unsuitable or obsolete utensils, and

5—using unapproved mix.

Eighteen of these items had been abated at the end of the year.

(d) Ice-cream Samples

Forty-nine samples were taken during the year and the grading and percentages are set out together with the 1947 results for comparative purposes.

1948	Total No. of Samples 49	Grade	No. of Samples	Percentage
		I	9	18.36
		II	13	26.53
		III	15	30.61
		IV	12	24.44
			49	99.94
1947	25	I	3	12.
		II	3	12.
		III	8	32.
		IV	11	44.
			25	100.

Whilst the sample results are disappointing they are a definite improvement over those obtained in 1947.

No producer of Ice-cream in the Urban District had more than one Grade IV sample, one outside producer had two Grade IV samples and another outside producer had one Grade I and two Grade IV samples.

The Committee who, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, enquired into the Bacteriological Examination and Grading of Ice-cream and eventually produced the provisional standard state in their second report: "Judgment on the hygiene of production and distribution should be based not on a single sample but on the result of a series of samples taken throughout the year."

This advice has been acted upon and where unsatisfactory samples have been produced the premises have been visited and appropriate action has been taken to ensure improvement.

44. (a) **Meat and Food Inspection**

There is one regional slaughterhouse in the Urban District.

Number of animals slaughtered therein	...	...	7,306
" " " examined "	...	...	7,306
" " " slaughtered elsewhere (Cottagers' pigs)	...	...	428
" " " examined elsewhere (Cottagers' pigs)	...	...	149

Ante-mortem Inspection

This is performed as far as it is possible to do so, bearing in mind the existing conditions, i.e. that animals are brought in by road transport to the slaughterhouse and a large number of them slaughtered immediately and to the fact that the officer performing meat inspection has other duties to perform and cannot be there all day. Every attempt is made to make ante-mortem inspection on casualty animals, and the officers' first action upon visiting the slaughterhouse is to examine the animals in the lairage.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

			Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known)	..	..	888	625	1252	4477	64	7306
Number inspected	..	..	888	625	1252	4477	64	7306
All Diseases except Tuberculosis								Weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses condemned	..	..	1	12	10	12	2	8565
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	295	305	9	1051	30	13355
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	33.33	50.72	1.51	23.83	50	21920		
Tuberculosis only								
Whole carcasses condemned	..	..	8	15	3	—	1	15318
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	161	252	3	—	6	16736
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	..	..	19.02	42.72	.47	—	10.93	32054

(b) **Meat Inspection**

The total weight of meat condemned, surrendered and disposed of for purposes other than human consumption was 24 tons, 1 cwt., 102 lbs., as compared with 27 tons, 10 cwts., 108 lbs. last year.

The number of animals killed was slightly less than last year, and the percentage of animals found to be diseased on post-mortem examination shows very little difference from last year's figures.

Two calves had congenital Tuberculosis and information was sent to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for investigations to be made regarding the condition of the dam. The Divisional Inspector co-operates and the investigations are satisfactorily pursued, but this only applies to calves brought in as casualties or by methods other than in groups known as "bobby" calves. These come into the slaughterhouse in groups of thirty or so and there is no method by which the slaughterhouse manager can trace them. I have taken this position up with the Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Food, who has promised to give attention to it.

(c) Cause of Meat Condemnation

This table shows the diseases and diseased conditions which were found and the number of carcasses, part carcasses or offal which were condemned owing to their presence.

Disease	Condemned		
	Carcase	Part carcase	Offal
Tuberculosis—			
Generalised	25	—	25
Congenital	2	—	2
Localised	—	27	431
Immaturity	5	—	5
Pathological emaciation	14	—	14
Septicæmia	1	—	1
Bruising—			
General	1	—	1
Localised	—	9	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1
Pneumonia, septic	7	—	7
Cirrhosis	—	—	554
Multiple Abscesses	—	2	86
Actinomycosis	—	—	7
Angioma	—	—	82
Mastitis	—	—	89
Congestion	—	—	167
Parasitic infection including cysts and strongyli	—	—	920
Johnnes Disease	2	—	20
Pericarditis, septic	2	—	5
Pleurisy	—	—	28
Fatty Degeneration	—	—	5
Emphysema	—	—	10
Nephritis	—	—	8
Enteritis	—	—	3
Peritonitis	—	—	25
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	1

(c) **Cause of Meat Condemnation—Cont.**

Disease					Carcase	Condemned Part carcase	Offal
Supræmia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Dropsy	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Pyæmia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Septic Metritis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Fibrosis	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
Putrefaction	...	...	...	...	—	1	2
					64	40	2,504

(d) **Other Foods**

The following unsound food was condemned and suitably disposed of:

1,079 tins of various foodstuffs.

92 packets of potato powder.

81 lbs. of flour.

17 lbs. of ice-cream powder.

112 lbs. of sprayed skimmed milk powder.

20 lbs. of Pearl barley.

10 lbs. of dried peas.

11 lbs. of cheese.

50 lbs. of prunes.

1 carton of chestnuts.

25 cwts. of potatoes.

99 lbs. of various foodstuffs.

24 lbs. of sausage.

31 dressed fowls.

5 cwt. of sausage rusk.

4 cwt. of meal.

50 $\frac{3}{4}$ stone of various fish.

152 lbs. of mutton.

600 lbs. of beef.

45.

Slaughter Houses

The position remained unchanged throughout the year.

46.

Knacker Yard

Application was made by a townsman for a licence for premises situate in the Burbage Ward. The application was not regarded very favourably, eventually the applicant appeared before the Committee and gave an undertaking to adequately cook all meat before it left the premises and various other items to prevent nuisance from them. He also undertook to line the slaughtering hall with glazed bricks and perform the other works of adaptation in a satisfactory manner.

Eighteen inspections were made from May to December and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

47.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The following table shows the number of inspections and the resultant action taken.

	Ice-cream premises	Meat preparing rooms	Meat shops	Fried fish and chipped potato rooms	Cafes, food stores, etc.	Total
No. of inspections	168	83	73	73	60	457
Structural defects	6	3	4	2	6	21
Cleansing of internal structure..	5	15	3	16	8	47
Public Health Act nuisances ..	—	3	—	—	1	4
No. of contraventions found ..	11	21	7	18	15	72
Contraventions abated ..	3	16	5	9	10	43
Contraventions unabated ..	8	5	2	9	6	30
Contraventions abated from 1947	—	2	1	6	5	14

48. **Standard Code of Practice for Food Premises**

In 1947, the Council adopted a Standard Code of Practice for ice-cream premises, and after it had been launched, the question was raised regarding other food premises. I stated I was then preparing a code. Shortly afterwards a sub-committee of County District Inspectors and the County Sanitary Inspector then prepared a Standard Code of Practice for submission to the district councils. This Standard was adopted by the Council and received by the traders towards the end of the year.

49. **Food Poisoning**

Two notifications of food poisoning were received, one in March and one in September. The organism found was *Salmonella Typhii Murium* in both cases, but no specific food could be traced as the cause of the poisoning. Numerous specimens from the patients and the contacts were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory. Both patients recovered after a few weeks' illness.

50. **Bakehouses**

Seventy-six inspections were made on 23 premises. 32 contraventions were found, 13 relating to limewashing, 15 to cleansing and 4 to structural items. 21 of the contraventions were abated and 2 were abated following action commenced in 1947.

One bakehouse was reconditioned and much improved and the owner of one unsatisfactory bakehouse was served with a schedule of works which required completing to make his bakehouse reasonably decent.

51. **Factories Act**

(a) Eighty inspections were made relating to 22 premises.

Twenty-four contraventions were found, 20 of them being abated together with 6 contraventions following action commenced in 1947.

(b) **Outworkers**

Postcards were sent to all factories in July reminding them of the provisions of s. 110. In response the names and addresses of 550 outworkers were notified.

Information is passed to the authority concerned where the outworkers reside outside the Council's area.

52. **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and Infestation Order, 1943**

One thousand, six hundred and sixty-two initial visits and 2,830 return visits were made regarding rats and mice destruction. The majority of these were made by the Council's Rodent Operator.

One hundred and thirty-three private premises were visited during the year and disinfestation work against rats or mice was carried out at 120 of them. The infestations at these private properties were of a minor character only, usually being those connected with the keeping of pigs or poultry.

The sewage disposal works and the house and trade refuse tips in the district have received treatments throughout the year. The Barwell trade refuse tip is clear and there only remains a minor infestation at the Hinckley tip.

Contract disinfestation at industrial premises has been maintained; 28 premises were on contract at the end of the year, 4 more than last year.

Sewer Baiting

The sewers of the district were treated during the year in the fifth maintenance series. The 1947 treatment gave indication that the sewers were almost free of infestation and with this fact in mind arrangements were made for manholes throughout the district to be test-baited, and where the test bait showed evidence of infestation, the whole of the sewerage system in the vicinity was to receive a full treatment.

The results of the scheme were as follows:

District		Manholes inspected	No. baited	No. not baited	Complete takes	Partial takes	No take
Hinckley	..	537	248	289	6	54	188
Barwell	..	156	115	41	2	37	76
Burbage	..	198	187	11	5	59	123
Earl Shilton	..	202	136	66	5	46	85
Totals	..	1,093	686	407	18	196	472

53. Staff

The staff of the department remains unchanged, which means there is one qualified sanitary inspector less than the establishment in 1939.

TABLE OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL

Year	Population	Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1899	11,019	361	30.08	193	16.08	160.6
1909	12,576	335	27.6	190	15.1	146.2
1919	13,707	208	12.99	171	11.12	100.9
1924	14,266	308	21.13	183	12.6	49.02
1929	15,650	294	18.9	223	14.2	71.4
1934	16,920	302	17.7	182	10.7	46.0
1939	34,360	594	17.2	336	9.6	47.0
1940	35,060	601	17.1	364	10.38	47.0
1941	35,887	574	15.96	397	11.06	50.5
1942	35,044	654	18.66	321	9.11	42.8
1943	34,498	681	19.71	328	9.50	36.7
1944	34,430	753	21.9	335	9.7	27.9
1945	34,400	688	20.0	323	9.3	26.1
1946	36,620	855	23.3	366	9.9	44.4
1947	37,650	858	22.79	397	10.5	46.8
1948	38,580	785	20.39	364	9.4	24.2

